

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LIBREV 01252 241347Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /068 W

-----241951Z 021548 /73

R 241310Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9373

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1252

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GB GW

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER MADE ON E DAY VISIT TO LIBREVILLE MAY 18 ON WAY HOME TO BONN FOLLOWING THREE DAY TRIP TO ZAIRE. IN LIBREVILLE VICE CHANCELLOR GENCSCHER, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIAL PARTY OF OVER THIRTY-FIVE PLUS EQUALLY LARGE PRESS CORPS, HAD TWO OUR CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BONGO, WORKING SESSION (AND DINNER) WITH PRIME MINISTER MEBIAME AND OTHER GABONESE OFFICIALS, AND PRESS CONFERENCE FOR GERMAN AND GABONESE JOURNALISTS BEFORE LEAVING TOWN. VISIT PRODUCED AGREEMENT TO CREATE MIXED COMMISSION FOR PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND DECISION TO SEND TEAMS OF ECONOMISTS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN BONN AND LIBREVILLE TO INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GERMAN INVESTMENT IN GABON. NOTWITHSTANDING APPARENT ECONOMIC TONE OF VISIT, GENSCHERS PRESS CONFERENCE AND OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM GOG REVEALED LITTLE OF REAL SUBSTANCE ACCEPT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GERMAN VICE CHANCELLOR HAD INVITED BONGO TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO FRG.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIBREV 01252 241347Z

2. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH FRG EMBASSY HERE CONFIRMED FACT THAT GENSCHERS STOP IN LIBREVILLE WAS CONCEIVED AS POLITICAL GAMBIT TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS THROUGH HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION TO GABONESE PRESIDENT AND AT SAME TIME SHOW SUPPORT FOR MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS SUCH AS BONGO AND MOBUTU.

3. GERMAN EMBASSY CALLED GENSCHERS STOP HERE "UNQUALIFIED

SUCCESS." FRG HAS CLEAR AID POLICIES THAT LEAVE RELATIVELY AFFLUENT GABON ON SIDELINES AND GERMAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY STILL HESITANT TO INVEST HEAVILY IN WHAT CONSIDERED PRIMARILY FRENCH TERRITORY. THEREFORE, POLITICAL ROUTE WAS ONLY ONE AVAILABLE TO BONN AND GERMANS APPARENTLY DELIGHTED TO SEE IT WORKING SO WELL.

4. BONGO APPARENTLY WAS ALSO PLEASE WITH GENSCHERS VISIT BOTH AS STRONG SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBORING ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU, WHOSE STABILITY BONGO CLEARLY SEES TO BE IN HIS OWN INTEREST, AND ALSO BECAUSE STOP IN LIBREVILLE BY SENIOR FRG CABINET MEMBER SERVES TO INCREASE BONGOS STATURE ON CONTINENT. ON GERMAN SIDE, GENSCHER REPORTEDLY EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH BONGO FOR HIS GRASP OF "AFRICAN POLITICAL REALITY AND FARSIGHTED APPROACH TO GABONESE DEVELOPMENT." ACCORDING TO FRG EMBASSY, BONGO VISIT TO BONN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1978. STEIGMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIBREV01252
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0334
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770524/aaaaauug.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49c1568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2393815
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GB, GE, (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49c1568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009